

REPORT

Blue Mountain Forest Reserve (E)

By M. L. Erickson

September 1, 1906

2802 Lawrence Ave., Tacoma, Wn.
October 12, 1906.

The Forester,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

The enclosed report upon the Blue Mts. Forest Reserve (E), by Asst. Forest Inspector Erickson, has been delayed by many misfortunes. He wrote the first copy about September 1 and forwarded it to me for approval to Tacoma, instead of to Ashford, which, since I did not call at the Tacoma general delivery, delayed its reaching me. This I did not discover until I saw Mr. Erickson at Portland late in September, when I wired for it. Mr. Olmsted and I then went over the report and found it unsatisfactory. Mr. Erickson made an exceedingly good field examination and was in possession of all necessary facts, but his report was too brief and lacked definiteness in recommendations. Accordingly he was instructed to rewrite it after the Portland meeting and resubmit to me. To avoid further delay or mischance, I waited here a day after being ready to start for Chelan to receive the amended report and send it on to you.

It is still rather too brief in discussing individual cases of importance, and there is some confusion of summarized conclusions which do not require action with definite recommendations for action by you, but I have not thought it best to require any further change. Obviously I am not in a position to approve and be responsible for all statements and recommendations, for I have not been on the ground, but on the whole I have confidence in Mr. Erickson's conclusions for his examination was very thorough and well-directed. Upon such points as I have any personal knowledge of, I have added pencil comments in one copy of the report. If they are found useful, they can be transcribed to the other copy.

From this first trial of Mr. Erickson in inspection work, I am led to believe that he is very well adapted to it. His field work was excellent, indeed would be most creditable to an experienced man. The report does not do him full credit for this, but seems to me good for a first effort.

Kindly inform us both whether you wish his report to be transmitted through me in every case hereafter, or whether we should consult only when we believe it desirable.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) E. T. Allen,
Forest Inspector.

November 3, 1906.

The Honorable,
The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

I have the honor to recommend the withdrawal from entry, for a proposed addition to the eastern division of the Blue Mountains Forest Reserve, Oregon, of the vacant unappropriated public lands in the areas indicated by the shaded portions of the attached diagram.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. M. HAYS,
Acting Secretary.

1 Enclosure

TIMBER SALES

BLUE MOUNTAIN FOREST RESERVE, EASTERN DIVISION.

Erickson, September 1, 1906.

Forest Conditions and Market

Except for a high altitude and exposed ridges, the reserve is covered with a forest of excellent merchantable value, of which the predominating species are western yellow pine, lodge pole pine, tamerack, red fir, Engleman spruce and white fir. There is approximately ten per cent of the area which is brush and open grass land, and the other small area comprising the Alpine type, which bears scattered specimen of Alpine fir and white bark pine, of no commercial importance, occupies the east central part of the reserve included in the Elkhorn and Powder Mts.

Yellow pine grows in excellent stands near the lower country on sides of canyon, on south slopes of ridges, and, in general, on the outer edges of the reserve bordering on the valleys and agricultural settlements. It grows tall, large and is of good quality. The trees average in the lower belt of its range four logs to the tree and 30 inches in diameter, and it cruises on the average of 10,000 ft. per acre. This type is very characteristic of a large portion of the reserve, and is the kind of timber much sought after by the vigilant timber locators, who have been operating along the boundaries of the reserve for the past three or four years. Often claims, located by them, furnishes from two to two and a half million feet to the quarter section. The timber is sound, quite free from insect pests. It is a material which is being converted into lumber by the various saw-mill concerns located outside of the reserve. Tamerack occurs on the upper edge of the yellow pine zone and in mixture with lodge pole pine and red fir on the lower lodge pole slopes. It forms a sort of transition type between a merge of yellow pine and lodge pole pine. It is also characteristic in that it forms a fringe forest along the edges of open meadows and parks in the interior. Tamerack furnishes excellent timber for ties and construction purposes. It will also make good dimension stuff when converted into lumber, though it is not generally so considered. It grows very tall and straight and possesses a great amount of clear length. Frequent specimen sixty inches in diameter, one hundred and fifty feet high, with a clear length of one hundred feet, a merchantable material almost to the very tip, were observed through out the reserve. Its value is fully equal to that of yellow pine, and I predict its exploitation in the near future to result in large timber sales. Tamerack is very abundant in this reserve. Red fir does not occupy a large area of the reserve, but is found general in mixture with tamerack, white fir and yellow pine lodge pole pine. It is never found in pure stands in the Blue Mountains. It is not considered of such commercial value as other species, probably because not sufficiently abundant; however, the mines use it extensively for stulls, lagging and cord wood, but outside of this use it is not exploited to any considerable extent. It is not found in its best state of development here. The trees are

often limby and subject to dry rot. The general occurrence in mixture with other species is on the exposed ridges in a higher altitude.

REPRODUCTION: Yellow pine reproduction is everywhere excellent where sufficient light and mineral soil is available for the germination of the seed, but it is not good under heavy stands of its own species or other timber. There will be no difficulty in securing an excellent reproduction of yellow pine in timber sales when the mineral soil is exposed by ordinary logging operations and the brush burnt clean so as to leave bare spots. Lodge pole pine is a prolific seeder, and reproduces abundantly over exposed or burnt areas. In the interior of the reserve it is the prevailing species, and is often found in exclusive areas which were formerly forested with tamerack and yellow pine timber; but this occurrence has been brought about as a result of extensive forest fires. An interesting condition is the manner in which lodge pole pine is seemingly encouraging open areas formerly occupied by tamerack, where fires have occurred. The drying effect on the soil is not favorable for tamerack seed, but furnishes the best seed bed for lodge pole pine. Reproduction of tamerack, however, is excellent on north slopes where the moisture conditions are more favorable, and there is less exposure. In these burnt areas the large tamerack, because of its thick bark, is seldom killed by the fire leaving the mother trees standing, and underneath is a dense reproduction of lodge pole Pine with none or very little evidence of tamerack seedlings coming in. This shows how lodge pole pine is eventually occupying the areas unless forested with a large percentage of tamerack. Should the tamerack be able to hold its own until the lodge pole pine stand has nearly matured and brought about better soil conditions, the tamerack seedlings will secure opportunity to come up in the more open blanks, resulting from the falling of matured lodge pole pine, and only in this way can a more desirable species of tamerack be brought about to cover these areas again. To sum up, tamerack requires more moist conditions and less exposure than lodge pole pine, hence the reproduction of it is retarded on burnt or exposed ground, while lodge pole pine comes in densely under these conditions.

TIMBER SALES.

For some years to come the sales of timber will probably be small because one or two large lumber companies, notably the Oregon Lumber Co. and the Grande Ronde Lumber Co., have extensive timber holdings adjoining the reserve, and are in the active operation of manufacturing. These companies will furnish the vicinity with timber until their own supply begins to run short, then I predict a large business by the reserve in timber sales, which will be mostly to mining companies. The market condition now, due to the near proximity to the Pacific Coast Mills, are not favorable to any large timber purchases. The prevailing stumpage prices are low, and to meet the stumpage prices placed on reserve timber will necessitate a change in conditions. Up to date four timber sales have been consummated, and two of these lie within the former Baker City reserve. All of these sales are supervisor sales except for one for 1200 cords of wood recently sold to a Mining Company.

Golden Wizzard Mining Co.
March 6, 1906.

Timber Sale.
Baker City Reserve.

The timber involved in this sale is old timber which was cut on the company's own mining claim for the purpose of developing their mines; but the mine proved unprofitable, and the company discontinued their work, and they wished to dispose of the wood they had cut on their unpatented claim. It was made a cord wood sale, and Supervisor Terrell, apparently doubtful as to the manner in which it should be handled judiciously, accordingly put the matter up to the Forester. He was instructed to make it a timber sale, valueing the cord wood at ten cents per cord. The amount was 172 cords. The contract was made for the sale at this value, and the company forwarded \$16.20 in full payment. The examination of this sale showed that the cutting was an old one, and that the cord wood was in very good condition. I could find no reason why stumpage value was placed so low as ten cents a cord. It was also not apparent to Supervisor Terrell, who considered twenty five cents a cord the proper stumpage value for this wood. Since this is too low a stumpage price on cord wood, I recommend that in future sales care be exercised that definite recommendations and reasons for a stumpage price of material accompany each report, so that if the Forester is required to place a value on it a reasonable and more uniform stumpage value should be fixed. Cord wood in the vicinity of this sale is worth from twenty-five to fifty cents per cord. The requirement in the contract, specifying the cleaning up and piling of all old tops and refuse, has not been carried out by the purchasers. The zeal with which Mr. Terrell desires to comply strictly with all requirements and regulations as to specifications in contracts, he stopped the removal of the cord wood, seized it, and gave instructions to pile the brush completely before any further removal would be allowed. The inspection of this sale showed that the cutting was almost a clean cutting on the hill side, and that the tops were scattered over the ground, and since having been lying there for several years were nearly half rotted, and not in any way situated as to become a fire menace to the reserve. The piling of the brush would not improve the condition of the land sufficiently to warrant any of this work, in fact it is thought better that the material be allowed to remain where it lies until a complete disintegration was effected.

I recommend that the piling of the brush be waived, that the wood be released, and the sale closed.

Baker Light & Power Co.
October 14, 1905.

Timber Sale.
Baker City Reserve.

This company, which also enjoys a special privilege within the reserve, made application to purchase 100 tamerack and white fir telegraphic poles outside of their right of way. The timber in this sale was located on a side hill above the company's right of way. The stumpage price fixed by Mr. Terrell on the poles was one dollar each. The poles average 36 ft. in length and 8 in. at the top, and in actual scale measure valued at \$2.00 per thousand. Such poles would not reckon up more than 15 cts. each. Of course greater consideration should be given in the valuing of poles of this sort than saw timber, since the best, tallest and straightest timber is selected, but I believe that

one dollar is much too high a figure. I recommend that in future deals of this sort from 35 to 50 cts each be the stumpage price placed upon them. This sale has been consummated to the extent of cutting forty-two poles. The company did not desire to cut the 100 poles applied for, hence the sale was closed. The brush has been piled satisfactorily, and the sale handled in a proper way. I would recommend that in future sales of this kind that the value of poles be placed at from 35 to 50 cents each.

Citizens Gold Mining Co.
August 21, 1906.

Timber Sale.
Blue Mountain Reserve.

Is the first timber sale in the Blue Mountain area. It consists of 236 acres and 1,427 ft. of mining timbers, including 800 lagging which was cut on the company's unpatented mining claim for the development of the mine. The mine did not pay, and the work has been abandoned. The people interested in this sale wished to dispose of the wood, which was dead material when cut. Application for timber sale was made and a stumpage value of 25 cts per cord placed upon the wood, and a value of 1 cent per foot on the mining timbers, including the lagging.

The advisability of making sales of this sort after mining companies cut timber, with a view of developing their mines, upon the pretentious statement of some unscrupulous mining promoter or manager, should be discouraged every way possible, for it is important to secure a regulation for cutting the wood properly. The way this can be done regularly and most advantageously, is to have a forest officer make an examination of such mining claims, where they think anything like this may come up, and report on the validity of the claim, when, if a great amount of indiscriminate cutting is being done, the work can be stopped. This is advisable, because in the mining districts proper the shortage of timber is becoming apparent, and producing mines will, in a few years, be required to secure their timber from a distant part of the reserve, making the expense of transportation high. This sale was in progress during the latter days of my inspection, hence the brush piling was not up, and I cannot report as to the complete cleaning up of the material. In other respects the sale is entirely satisfactory.

The Columbia Gold Mining Co.
Sept. 1st, 1906.

Timber Sale
Blue Mountain Reserve

This sale was being reported in the office when I had begun writing my report, hence I can only state the particulars in the application. The Company desires to purchase 1200 cords of lodge pole pine timber from an isolated "Forty" located near their mining claims. The area is described in the report as almost entirely a pure stand of lodge pole pine. The company desires to cut the area clean; and upon investigations by Sup't Sheller and Guard Parker the same conclusion was reached-- that is, the injury done to reproduction by cutting this area clean is almost nil, since on all sides of this isolated track it is surrounded by an area which contains much dead and down stuff and slash, resulting from previous cuttings. The danger of this area being burned over, in case any of this slash becomes fired, is great. This was a very good reason in itself for advising the clean cutting of the area, but from a technical point of view, it is also the best system

in pure lodge pole pine forest to secure a dense stand of lodge pole pine reproduction. The same result, when the brush is burned, will be secured as when a forest fire burns over a lodge pole slope, the cones will be opened by the heat, the seed will fall and lodge in the ashes, or the exposed mineral soil, and germinate readily. Stumpage value placed on this material was 50 cts. per cord. For lodge pole pine, where the wood is to be used for local purposes, such as mining, I recommend 50 cents as a sufficient high value.

Free Use.

Forty-five free use permits have been issued up to date, and this business is barely commenced. An immense amount of this work will be necessary to care for this fall and winter, and it will form probably the greatest part of the work that the rangers will be required to do next winter. Lodge pole pine is in great demand by free use applicants for poles and posts used in building jack fences. The use of this species should be encouraged in every way for extensive areas in the reserve are covered with lodge pole patches which are now of no merchantable value for any other purposes. The intention in carrying out this work is good, and in all applications the use of dry wood is encouraged. Mr. Terrell instructed his rangers to require all applicants to designate each area from which the timber is to be taken by legal subdivisions down to forty acres. This is impracticable because many applicants do not know the location of the areas where they wish to secure timber, and if they did, would not be able to describe them. A better system would be to designate free use areas, and properly locate them on the map, then allow applicants to take the timber from any particular part of this area. This can be done in parts of the reserve where the free use business is important, but in situations where only scattered applications come in, the description of the land will be in most cases sufficient by merely describing it in relation to natural land features. In unsurveyed country this is the only way it can be done. Applications for free use need not be attended to individually, but they should be bunched, and a forest officer go and mark timber for several parties at the same time.

In the free use business, thus far, the work has been carried out satisfactorily. Brush piling has been done reasonably well, and the material has been utilized fully. The forest officers designate the areas and marked the trees to be cut whenever it was possible to do so.

I recommend that free use areas be designated and marked out by the forest officers in the vicinity of settlements or places where free use will be greatest, and that applications be for timber within these areas. Also that the applications be considered in bunches, as far as possible, and that forest officers set special dates upon which they will meet applicants and care for their business. In this way much time will be saved.

SAW-MILL PRIVILEGES

There are no saw-mill privileges in the Blue Mountain Reserve.

Timber Trespasses:

With the exception of a few minor trespasses in the mining districts the principal ones have occurred in the former Baker City Reserve. No large malicious cases have been recorded.

Old Abe Mining Co.

Feb. 20, 1906.

Timber Trespass.

Baker City Reserve.

This is in connection with a mining claim. Bob Evans, Manager, cut 1200 acres {cords} of green yellow pine in the spring of 1903, with the ultimate object of developing a mine. The mine failed. Mr. Evans wished to sell the timber, therefore, saw the Supervisor to learn in what way he could properly do this. Mr. Terrell reported the case as an innocent timber trespass, and placed his recommendation for stumpage price as fixed for the timber in the Golden Wizzard Mining Co's sale by the Forester at ten cents per cord. This case is exactly similar to the Golden Wizzard Mining Co's timber sale, and it should have also been a timber sale; however, since the case was made a trespass, and the proposition for settlement of \$11.20 accepted nothing can now be done.

I recommend that in all future cases of this sort the Supervisor be instructed to make timber sales instead of trespasses. In this case, some of the brush has been piled and burned by Mr. Evans. The burning was done carelessly, resulting in the killing of three or four standing trees. It was not done in the presence of the forest officer. Although a portion of the slash is old material, and not of any particular injury to the reserve, it is all piled, with the exception of a portion near the creek, which is thrown approximately in a dense stand of young timber, and will be a source of great danger in case a fire is started. This material should be cleaned up and piled for burning.

I recommend that the Supervisor continue to hold the remaining wood on the track until a disposal of the refuse has been accomplished.

The Baker Light & Power Co.

November, 1905.

Timber Trespass.

Baker City Reserve.

In connection with the construction of their power line the workmen cut outside the right of way 97 tamarack poles, eight inches in diameter at the small end and thirty-five feet long, in a place where the poles were very suitable. The case was reported as an innocent trespass for the reason the workmen cut the timber without the knowledge of the company, the manager stating that he had instructed the workmen to cut timber only on the right of way. This, however, does not relieve the aspect of the case from being classed as willful trespass, since it was done after the creation of the reserve, and although through ignorance of the workmen, and of the company, the timber has been cut and the responsibility can be placed. A proposition of settlement for \$1.00 per pole was made on a basis of innocent trespass. It was not accepted by the Forester because the case was designated as a willful trespass, and an additional value was requested as required in settling cases for willful trespass. Poles of this size are not

worth \$1.00 each. They are classed exactly the same as in this company's timber sale, in which I recommended that from 35 to 50 cents be the prevailing stumpage price. I believe that one dollar is just about the proper amount for settlement of a willful trespass, and since the poles were removed only a short distance where they would be used, and the additional value on them at the place of use would be very little.

I recommend in this case that the proposition of settlement of \$97.00, at the rate of \$1.00 per pole, be accepted in settlement for the willful trespass, and that as soon as the brush has been piled and disposed of satisfactorily the case be closed.

James Tibbs,
May, 1906

Timber Trespass
Baker City Reserve.

I could find no record in the office of this case; however, Ranger Berry took Inspector Allen and myself over the Baker City Reserve, and showed us the trespasses committed by Mr. Tibbs. I cannot account for the fact that it does not appear in the office records, but assume that it has been misplaced in the files. I did not see Mr. Terrell when examining the records for this trespass, and did not ask him if he had kept any record of this case. Mr. Tibbs cut 25 Lodge Pole Pine poles. Mr. Berry reported the case as willful trespass, and a proposition of settlement of one dollar per pole was made and accepted. The brush was dragged out of the patch where the timber was cut into an opening and burned clean. The case was handled excellently.

George Weigand
Sept. 1, 1906.

Timber Trespass
Blue Mountain Reserve.

This case was just reported as I was engaged in the writing of this report, so cannot give any information of the conditions on the ground. In fact the sale was one of three cases in which Mr. Weigand was involved. He registered a huge kick, securing the services of an attorney to aid him in fighting settlement for the trespass, but both he and the lawyer were assured that they could do nothing in the matter. Mr. Weigand then settled up and left the office feeling much relieved. The wood had been cut last winter, and this spring was reported as an innocent trespass. It consisted of mixed species of lodgepole pine and tamarack, and was valued at one dollar per cord, which, in the mining region of Bourne, this value is about right for cord wood.

Many other cases of this nature are being reported almost daily. The forest officers are now engaged in examining mining claims and ferreting out these trespasses. In every case, thus far, propositions of settlement have been secured; but the trespassers were reluctant at first to make settlement as they had been accustomed in previous years to cut much timber on unpatented mining claims, or even on public vacant lands, for the purpose of sale, hence when the restrictions of forest reserve rules prohibited them from doing this, they became loud in their denunciation of the reserve policy. The mining situation in Eastern Oregon, especially in what is known as the "Sumpter District" is extremely rotten; due to the numerous fake claims, and to a large number of stock companies, selling illegitimate stock on the market, having full swing in this territory.

The honest legitimate miners, however, who are attempting to develop the country and make most of the mining business, are very reasonable, and are pleasant to deal with. They view the means of protecting the timber, through the operations of the reserve, the salvation of the future mining industry of the country. Their influence in the community is being felt, and the sentiment among the miners toward favoring the forest reserve policy is changing rapidly. Many mining claims in the reserve have been located for their timber, and as fast as examinations can be made adverse reports on them will be submitted.

I recommend that not only the claims calling for immediate examination pending advertisement for patent, but also all mining claims of a suspicious nature be examined this fall as fast as possible, before determining the validity of them.

Recommendations for Stumpage Prices:

Green timber for commercial purposes, which is intended to be placed on the market, and to be used in the vicinity not dependent on reserve timber should be fixed at a minimum stumpage price of \$2.00 per thousand feet B.M.

The reason for fixing an approximate value on timber now is, that it will assist materially the supervisor and forest officers in handling timber sales and furnishing information for applicants who desire to purchase timber. Parts of the Blue Mountain Reserve are very well timbered. The timber is quite accessible; it is of good quality, and on the market it will bring a good price. I do not believe that prevailing stumpage prices should be a basis for valuing timber on this forest reserve, because the large lumber companies have been virtually compelling owners of small claims to sell their timber at practically the figure they set, which has resulted in much valuable and accessible timber being sold for less than \$1.00 per thousand. The timber is nicely located for logging, the area is not rough, and the matter of getting the logs to the market is not a difficult one. Two dollars per thousand should in all cases of this sort be the minimum price -- although I do not predict large sales within the next year or two, because the prevailing opinion is that this stumpage price is rather high, and for a company making a large purchase and handling a large quantity of timber, money can be made by the operation.

Green timber to be used for domestic purposes for the mines and adjacent settlers should be valued at \$1.50 per thousand feet B.M. I do not believe it advisable to charge developing mines and local people as high a price for timber when it is to be used in the vicinity where reserve timber is entirely depended upon.

Green timber for cord wood at 75 cents per cord, when used by people dependent upon wood from the reserve, and at \$1.00 per cord for commercial purposes. Since about one-third cord of wood equal a thousand feet B.M., this brings the stumpage price nearly equivalent to what it would be on sawed timber.

Mining timbers should be valued at one-half cent per lineal foot for stick from ten to fourteen inches in diameter at the butt, and at one-third cent per lineal foot for all timber

below ten inches in diameter at the butt. This value figures out comparatively the same as that on saw-logs.

LAGGING: Same value as cord wood when possible to measure this way; otherwise to be valued at one-half cent each.

SHAKES:	50 cents per 1,000.
TELEGRAPH POLES:	25 cents to 50 cents each.
OTHER POLES:	5 cents to 25 cents each.
POSTS:	2 cents to 5 cents each.

These figures apply to green timber only, and were determined by careful calculations so as to be based on an average stump value of saw timber, allowing a slightly greater amount on such timbers as lagging, shakes and telegraph poles, which are made from the best and straightest material.

Whenever any of the above material is dry stuff, about one-half of this stumpage price should be charged. Any definite value placed on dry stuff can be only approximated, since it will depend upon the soundness of the material.

(Signed) M. L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

SUMMARY TIMBER SALES.

SALES:

1. GOLDEN WIZZARD MINING COMPANY: That piling of brush be waived, wood be released and sale closed.
2. BAKER LIGHT & POWER COMPANY: That \$1.00 each for telegraph poles (the amount charged in this sale) is too high a stumpage price. That in future sales of this sort the stumpage value be placed at from 35 to 50 cts each.
3. COLUMBIA GOLD MINING COMPANY: That the lodgepole pine timber on the isolated "forty" applied for be cut clean and be burned without piling, and the stumpage value be fifty cents per cord.

FREE USE:

4. Designate free use areas; mark the trees for cutting within it.

- (a) Allow applicants to take timber from any particular part of this area.
- (b) Bunch applications. Have the Rangers set dates upon which they will care for the free use business in any community.

SAW-MILL PRIVILEGES:

- 5. None.

TIMBER TRESPASS:

- 1. OLD ABE MINING COMPANY: That the wood be held until the remaining debris is satisfactorily piled for burning.
 - 2. BAKER LIGHT & POWER COMPANY: A willful trespass. Recommend that the proposition of settlement for \$97.00 at the rate of \$1.00 per pole, be accepted, and upon satisfactorily cleaning up of the brush and tops, that the case be closed.
- (a) Examine and report on all mining claims of a suspicious nature, as well as those pending patent, to determine the validity of them, and thereby check frauds perpetrated upon the people as well as upon the government.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF STUMPAGE PRICES:

- 3. Green timber for commercial purposes at a minimum of \$2.00 per thousand, B.M.
- (a) Green timber for domestic purposes, where reserve material is entirely depended upon at \$1.50 per thousand feet B.M.
 - (b) Green cord wood at from 75 cents to \$1.00.
 - (c) Mining timbers at one-half cent per lineal foot when sticks are from 10 to 14 inches in diameter at the butt, and at one-third cent per foot when below this diameter.
 - (d) Lagging: Measure as cord wood, when possible, otherwise at one-half cent each.
 - (e) Shakes: Fifty cents per thousand.
 - (f) Telegraph poles: Twenty-five to fifty cents each.
 - (g) Other poles: Five to twenty five cents each.
 - (h) Posts: Two cents to five cents each.

Planting

Nothing to report.

Products.

Immense quantities of dead and down timber, principally lodgepole pine is found throughout the interior of the reserve, especially in the vicinity of Olive Lake and the Head of Desolation Creek.

Some investigation ought to be made to determine a means of utilizing and disposing of this material. It is very probable that several mining companies can be induced to use some of it for fuel.

Dendrology

Nothing to report.

GRAZING.

BLUE MOUNTAIN FOREST RESERVE, EASTERN DIVISION.

Erickson, September 1, 1906.

CONDITION OF THE RANGE.

The range is badly overgrazed. The higher country, the ridges and divides are almost entirely denuded of grass and severely damaged by too close herding; even the deep canyons have been invaded and grazed closely. The area allowed to sheep-grazing is much too small to support properly the number of sheep permitted on the reserve this year.

From the total area of the reserve, approximately 1,100,000 acres, 750,000 acres have been available to sheep; the 350,000 acres, or nearly one-third the area of the reserve, comprises excluded areas and horse and cattle ranges. The range allotted exclusively to cattle and horses is about 232,000 acres, and the remaining 120,000 acres, including the former Baker City Reserve is set aside for watersheds for the cities of Sumpter, Baker City, Granite and Greenhorn, and for the protection of the more important mining districts. The city of La Grande has made a petition for an excluded area at the headwaters of Beaver Creek, which will deduct another township from the area available for grazing.

The total number of sheep on the reserve this year, counting one-half the increase is 324,335 head as shown from the permits in the office. This figure, allowing two lambs equivalent to one sheep, gives two acres per head, which in a country that has been badly over grazed in the past, as is the case in the Blue M'ts Forest Reserve, is decidedly insufficient to support that number. This season has been a favorable one for

helping the range, because stock did not enter the reserve as early as previous years, many sheepmen are already, after grazing in the reserve but two and a half months, trailing their sheep out of the reserve because of short feed. In general the range has been overrun and much unnecessary damage done by trailing back and forth over the grazing districts in search of better food. The remedy for this is the allotment system which should be in effect next season.

The only part of any of the cattle and horse ranges which showed evidence of being overstocked, is in the vicinity of the Middle Fork of Burnt River. The other cattle and horse districts possess sufficient feed for the number of stock using them. The total number of cattle and horses under permit to graze in the reserve is 14,467 head, and the area in the several districts designated for their use is approximately 232,000 acres.

The matter of a cut next season in the present number of sheep permitted on the reserve has been taken up with Mr. Potter, and settled at an average of 25%, fixed on a sliding scale as follows:

1. All permits for 1000 or under, increase 20%, allowing none over 1200.
2. All permits from 1000 to 1200 allow 1200 head.
3. All permits 1200 to 2000 reduce 20%.
4. All permits 2,000 to 4,000 reduce 30%.
5. All permits more than 4,000 reduce 40%.

The stockmen are preparing themselves for a reduction, and it would be no surprise to them if the cut were announced to be 50% the first year. A decrease of 25% only; based on a sliding scale as above, will be met with favor by the stockmen.

No reduction should apply to owners of but one band, except in limiting the size of the band. As a rule the size of bands run by stockmen in this country is much too large, often containing more than 3000 head. The average band of ewes should be no larger than 1200 head, nor more than 2200 including the lambs. Dry sheep ought not be herded in bands greater than 1700, this, based on the assumption that two lambs consume the same amount of forage as one grown sheep, will make the proportion in the size of bands about equal.

Some stockmen having sheep on the reserve this year are selling out on account of the excellent market, others have been deprived of some of their sheep by trespassing, and a few using the reserve this year are not entitled to the grazing privileges next season. With such reductions the percentage of decrease may be lowered if found necessary.

There should be no cut in the number of cattle this year. They have ample range and some of it might be modified and made available for sheep. The desolation and Middle John Day cattle and horse range extends too far east into the high hills, much farther than the old "Dead Lines" formerly extended, and the number of stock in it do not use all the grass, as a result considerable good feed is going to waste. The old "Dead Lines" should be reestablished and posted with notices. The Burnt River country has always

been a horse and cattle range and should be so designated. Sheepmen have never dared bring their bands into the Burnt River watershed. The Prairie City Valley people need a small strip reserved as cattle and horse range along the edge of the reserve; they also should have the use of the valley along the Middle Fork of the John Day River for one and one-half miles on either side. These areas have hitherto been accustomed range for the Prairie Valley stock.

Allotments:

Range allotments should be made next season for sheep. Cattle and horses may be allowed to run in common as accustomed to in specified districts set aside for them. With a heavy cut-down in sheep, the number will be sufficiently reduced to allow allotments without overstocking the range. On account of the numerous lateral spurs and the irregular course of the main summit, there is enough of high country, so that every owner may have some of both the higher and lower parts for his summer range included in his allotment. The great difficulty in deciding allotments, will be in keeping owners from claiming and fighting for the same area for allotment. This matter, after thoroughly considered and outlined in the office, should be taken up at the meeting of the Wool Growers' Convention and settled there, so that each person may have a hearing before any decision is reached. The allotments ought to be defined clearly by natural boundaries, if that is possible, and in order that each stockmen will know just where his range is and what its limits are, a blue print map on a scale of one inch per mile of his allotment, should be supplied him.

Six grazing districts have been made on the Reserve, and in all cases, the main summit of the Blue Mountains has served as one of the boundary lines. As a consequence, the districts are very irregular in shape, and in the northern part of the reserve districts No. 1 and 2 consist of long narrow and irregular strips. The summit in the northern part is not well defined, it dwindles to a broad rolling hill, and does not make a good division line. Districts No. 1 and 2 should be changed so that No. 1 will include all that part of the Reserve north of the town line between T. 5 and 6, and Dist. No. 2 all the area north and east of the summit and south to Antone Creek. The remaining districts are laid out excellently, since the main summit is well defined and it runs pretty well through the middle of the Reserve.

The limits of the cattle and horse ranges should be run out, the lines blazed and posted. In another year when it is definitely known that these districts are judiciously established, division fences should be constructed along the boundaries.

After the first year and the success of the allotment system assured, long contracts, covering several years would be a good thing. This would tend to make occupants of allotted areas protect them and use them most wisely. It might induce some to reseed the areas so as to perpetuate their range.

Period of Grazing Season:

The summer grazing season for sheep, June 15 to October 15, is in my opinion very good, but the season for cattle and horses appears to be too short. Cattle are often turned loose to hunt forage for themselves as early as April 1 and not gathered on the home range until late in November. Many of these stock are apt to wander on the reserve much earlier than June 1 and stay on later than October 1. I think a better season for cattle and horses would be from May 15 to November 15.

Grazing Fees:

I recommend a flat rate of eight cents per head be charged next season on all grown sheep, over six months of age, and 25 cents per head for cattle and horses. The grazing fee should be raised for the following reasons:

1. One half the increase will not be charged for in the future.
2. The demand for range is great.
3. The total revenue from grazing next year should approach the sum secured from this source this season.
4. A high rate will aid in making effective the cut. Some stockmen who may secure range cheaper elsewhere will not care to renew their application.
5. The system of individual allotments will make the range more valuable than formerly.

It is very probable that the number of dry sheep applied for will be much diminished next season on account of a fee on grown sheep only, and no rate on any of the increase from ewes.

Additional matters connected with the live stock business:

1. That portion of the former Baker City Reserve south and west of the divide and east of Deer Creek, should be opened for sheep grazing.

Reasons:

- a. No water supply comes from this side.
- b. The forage is excellent, and no injury to the reserve or reproduction will result from the judicious handling of sheep on it.
- c. Below the boundaries of the reserve, sheep already graze.
- d. It will relieve the congestion on the Blue Mountains area. About 20,000 acres are contained in this area and it will support three bands of sheep. No cattle use this portion of the reserve.

2. All stock should be counted before entering the reserve next season.

a. Since cattle and horses are turned loose in the spring and wander without driving, upon the reserve, it is impossible to secure a count of them as they enter the reserve. The best plan would be to have them counted at the home ranch in February or March when all the ranchers stock are in pasture.

b. To secure a count of sheep, several counting and separating corrals should be constructed on the edge of the reserve along the main driveways, and all sheep counted as they enter the reserve through these corrals. The corral should be well constructed and be provided with dodge gates for separating purposes. The expense connected with the building of these corrals would be small.

3. Driveways: Three main driveways should be established.

1. Summit on north edge of reserve Daily Wagon Road east to Kamela. This is an old established main travelled trail.

2. Along Desolation ridge to allow sheep from the west to enter the reserve.

3. Along Dixie Butte and east toward Clear creek to enter the reserve from the lower John Day country.

4. No sheep from west of the summit should be allowed to cross the reserve going east to other range, except along the old established trail from the Daily Wagon Road to Kamela.

5. South of the town line between 5 and 6, sheep from the Heppner district should not be allowed to cross the summit to enjoy allotments on the east side. The range on the east side should be given to applicants from North Powder River valley.

6. If cattle roam outside of the districts allotted them, when feed in their district is sufficient, they should be required to fence the limits of the range or hire a rider to keep the stock within their range.

7. The source of all springs should be fenced by stockmen, when such springs are within their allotments.

8. Forest officers should improve the map locating and naming all small streams, indicating ridges and other natural features which will be of use in describing and locating allotments.

SUMMARY OF GRAZING.

1. Range badly overstocked.

2. Recommend a cut of 40%, which will reduce the number from 324,335 head to 194,600.
3. Reduce size of bands to 2200 head.
4. The Woolgrowers Association should be notified of the extent of the cut this fall so as to breed stock properly for next season.
5. No cut in the number of cattle and horses. Range not over stocked. Recommend diminishing the Middle John Day and Desolation cattle and horse ranges.
 - b. Designate additional range for Prairie City cattle.
 - c. Post exterior limits of cattle and horse ranges, fence them next year.
6. Allot areas to sheepmen next season.
7. Recommend a change of the cattle and horse grazing season from June 1 to October 31, to May 15 to November 15.
8. Long contracts covering period of several years would be advisable in another year.
9. Recommend a grazing fee of eight cents per head for sheep, and 25 cents per head for cattle.
10. Make provision to count all stock before entering the reserve next year.
 - a. Count cattle and horses at owners home ranch next winter.
 - b. Construct counting corrals on edge of reserve along main driveways for counting in the sheep.
11. Open to grazing a portion of the former Baker City reserve. Use only the north driveway for crossing the reserve with sheep.
12. With the exception of district No. 1 sheep should not be allowed to cross the summit and graze on the east side.
13. Forest rangers should improve the map for use in describing and locating allotments.
14. Fence source of Springs.
16. Trespass:

- a. J.W. Beymer -- One band trespassed on Sumpter watershed at head of McCullys fork, which was designated on permit as excluded area, and was posted with notices. A forfeit of the grazing fee on one band and exclusion from the reserve the penalty.
- b. Burgess & Kelsey -- Grazed on reserve without a permit. Should be denied all grazing privileges in the future.
- c. Joe Vye -- Trespassed on meadow selected for rangers' headquarters site. Fined \$50.00 damages. Should be denied grazing privileges next year.
- d. Seigel, Thos. -- Found on reserve without a permit. Case settled for 100 dollars damage.
- e. Cunningham Sheep & Land Co. -- Trespassed with one band on horse and cattle range. Forfeit permit for one band. Application for next year should be approved with a reduction of one band.

(Signed) M. L. ERICKSON,
Asst. Forest Inspector.

SUMMARY OF GRAZING.

- 1. Range badly overstocked.
- 2. Recommend a cut of 25%, which will reduce the number from 324,335 head to 243,250.
- 3. Reduce size of bands to 2200 head.
- 4. The Wool Growers Association should be notified of the extent of the cut this fall so as to breed stock properly for next season.
- 5. No cut in the number of cattle and horses. Range not over stocked. Recommend diminishing the Middle John Day and Desolation cattle and horse ranges.
 - b. Designate additional range for Prairie City cattle.
 - c. Post exterior limits of cattle and horse ranges, and fence them next year.
- 6. Allot areas to sheepmen next season.
- 7. Recommend a change of the cattle and horse grazing season from June 1 to October 31, to May 15 to November 15.

8. Long contracts covering period of several years would be advisable in another year.
9. Recommend a grazing fee of eight cents per head for sheep, and 25 cents per head for cattle.
10. Make provision to count all stock before entering the reserve next year.
 - a. Count cattle and horses at owners home ranch next winter.
 - b. Construct counting corrals on edge of reserve along main driveways for counting in the sheep.
11. Open to grazing a portion of the former Baker City reserve.
12. Use only the north driveway for crossing the reserve with sheep.
13. With the exception of district No. 1 sheep should not be allowed to cross the summit and graze on the east side.
14. Forest rangers should improve the map for use in describing and locating allotments.
15. Fence source of springs, and run water into trough when necessary.
16. Trespass:
 - (a) J.W. Beymer -- One band trespassed on Sumpter watershed at head of McCully's Fork, which was designated on permit as excluded area and was posted with notices. Penalized by forfeit the grazing fee on one band and exclusion from the reserve.
 - (b) Burgess & Kelsey -- Grazed on reserve without a permit. Recommend they be denied all grazing privileges in the future.
 - (c) Joe Vye -- Trespassed on meadow selected for rangers' headquarters site. Fined \$50.00 damages. Should be denied grazing privileges next year, since he owns 30,000 acres of good range.
 - (d) Seigel, Thos. -- Found on reserve without a permit. Case settled for \$100.00 damage.
 - (e) Cunningham Sheep & Land Co. -- Trespassed with one band on horse and cattle range. Forfeited permit for one band. Recommend that application for next year be approved with a reduction of one band in addition to the regular cut based on the sliding scale established.

(Signed) M. L. ERICKSON,

Asst. Forest Inspector.

CLAIMS AND PRIVILEGES:

SPECIAL PRIVILEGES: As with all mining reserves, special privileges and claims occupy a great deal of the work of the forest officers. This is especially true in the Blue Mts. Reserve. The privilege business has just barely begun. I predict a big amount of work of this nature to result from the further administration of the reserve. Most of the privileges are in the nature of roads, ditches and pipe lines, power and transmission lines:

The important cases are:

Baker Light & Power Co.
Sept. 26, 1905.

Power Transmission Line.
Baker City Reserve.

This Company has a Department of Interior Right of Way for an electric power transmission line seven miles in length and one hundred feet wide. The application is accompanied by an agreement and bond for one thousand dollars, which has been accepted. The contract calls for the construction of this line from timber cut within their right of way without charge, and a special clause requiring them to cut and remove this timber within their right of way, so that it would not in any manner injure the forest reserve.

The agreement between the Department of Agriculture and Department of Interior, in which the permit for a special privilege is issued by the Forester, with stipulations as to the requirements of disposal of brush and use of material, seems to me, would give the right for the Forester to charge for timber within the right of way secured through the Department of the Interior, if he so choose, the same as it gives him the power to make timber settlements. A strip about fifteen feet wide in the center of the right of way has been cut clean, and the material has been cleared up. Roughly, I estimate that 8,000 ft of timber has been cut from this cleared strip for which no charge whatever has been made. Mr. Crandall, Manager, claims he has a right to sell or dispose of this material. I do not believe he has any such right; but I am not clear on this point, and would be pleased to receive enlightenment upon it.

Brush has been piled and burned in a most highly satisfactory manner. The felled trees have been dragged out of the forest, and placed in piles within this cleared strip. Now, Mr. Terrell has given instructions to remove these piles of logs from the right of way to some place where they can be burned. The reason for his requesting this is for fear of a fire originating from a limb or tree falling across an electric wire and igniting the piles of logs. He also considered compelling the company to clear a wider strip along the right of way, so as to eliminate danger of trees falling across wires and thus starting a fire. It is claimed that a limb or any possible material crossing the wires will start a short

circuit and burn the lime or substances, which is across the wires, and this falling to the ground may easily start a forest fire.

In conference with Mr. Crandall, the manager of this company at Baker City, I was informed that because they have an automatic cut-off arrangement at the power house, no forest fire would result from falling trees or limbs, as the current would be immediately stopped.

I do not believe the danger of fire from fallen trees or limbs across the wires is sufficient to warrant the company cutting out a wider strip, and think that such trees which are most likely to fall should be removed next spring when the danger, by the ground being soft, is the greatest.

Should a forest fire result from any cause whatever, the forest officers could be easily informed, since there is a telephone line along the whole right of way, and the company has a man stationed at about the middle of the line, who patrols and looks after it. He would also patrol for fires. In the matter of the disposal of the piles of logs along the right of way, I think it is entirely unnecessary. These logs cannot be burned clean. It will result in badly charring them only, which would put them in worse condition than before. I also believe that the Forester has the right, under an agreement between the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture (Regulation 44 and Circular of Feb. 11, 1904) to sell or otherwise dispose of any timber cut in the right of way by the company. Some of this material can be given away under free use, and perhaps in the course of a year or two most of it can be sold. If the company were required to remove all of this material out of their right of way and clear a patch where they could burn it, it would involve a cost of nearly \$2,000.00; but the necessity of their removing this material is not at all apparent.

I recommend that the Baker City Light & Power Company shall cut and remove at their discretion such timber which is liable to fall across the wires, under the direction of a forest officer in the matter of disposing of the brush and logs, and that no requirements be made to compel the company to dispose of the logs, which they have piled along the clear strip within their right of way, and also that the Forester instruct Supervisor to attempt to give away or sell this material to the best advantage.

Fremont Power Company
April 18, 1906

Reservoir & Conduit
Blue Mountain Reserve.

Consists of a pipe line for carrying water from Olive Lake Reservoir to the power plant at the Red Boy Mine, a distance of six miles to be used for the purpose of generating and utilizing electric power. The land in the vicinity of Olive Lake is patented, so they require no privilege for reservoir site, and the power plant is located on their own patented claims in the Red Boy district. The contract, when I left the office, had not yet been approved by the Forester. In fact all the papers were in Washington when I made the examination, and I could not learn exactly what the contract called for. I traveled the whole distance of the right of way and found that the company had already cleared it,

had cut the timber with no attempt at disposing of the logs or refuse. About four miles of the line passes through a burned area of Lodge Pole Pine, where the fallen timber has been cleared and stacked along the side of the cleared strip in the right of way. A forest fire occurred in this district about twenty years ago, which resulted in a complete windfall, causing a dense mass of dead and down material to cover the ground. The dead falls piled on top of this down material can be no more of an increased menace to the company by fire than the existing mass of dead stuff already there. Over the remaining length of the line much green timber has been cut. The trees have been felled in all directions and the tops not disposed of.

I recommend that the company be required to pile the brush resulting from the tops and limbs of the live trees, bring the material in the open area along the right of way, and burn clean; but I think no requirements ought to be made in the disposal of the dead material cleaned out of the right of way, and so recommend. The company virtually has committed a trespass by beginning actual construction before obtaining a permit; but since they have manifested the proper spirit and faithful readiness to make application and by complying with all requirements, I think this aspect of trespass should be overlooked. This is entirely a commercial proposition, and the company should be required to pay a reasonable rental, which I recommend be fixed at \$5.00 per mile or \$30.00. The Company is working on this pipe line at present, and desires to complete construction this fall, and the recommendation for piling the brush resulting from cutting green timber should be put into effect immediately. It is very probable that this company will make application for an electric transmission line, and transmit the excess of power not used in the work for their mine to other mining districts for commercial purposes.

Ophir Mines

June 11th, 1906

ROAD.

Blue Mountain Reserve.

This road extends for a distance of about three-fourth mile over the Ophir mines to connect with a well established road from the Monumental Mine to Granite. The application was received by Superintendent Sheller, and permit issued without any compensation, since the road will not be used for mineral purposes, but mainly for the development of the mine and hauling out ore. The construction of the road is completed, and has been used for sometime; but in my examination I found that no attempt had been made to clean up the debris resulting from cutting timber to clear a way for the road. The road for the most part passes through a dense forest of Lodge Pole Pine, which has been cut out in a manner most easy to the workmen. The poles and brush have not been cleaned up or piled.

I recommend, that, as stipulated in the contract, the brush and other material be cleaned up and burned completely.

In this case, as in the Fremont Power Company, both of which were handled by Superintendent Sheller, no direction has been given to the disposal of the brush. This has established a bad precedent, and reflects seriously on Mr. Sheller. He should be censured for this neglect.

E. Flartherty

July 21, 1906

Road
Blue Mountain Reserve

Application for this road shows that it extends entirely within his own mining claims from the Sheridan group to the Oregon Quartz Mines. It will be used strictly for mining purposes in the development of its mines. There was no necessity for requiring an approval for this road, but since the application has been approved, and the permit granted, I think the matter had best be allowed to stand without comment. In regard to this point I am not absolutely certain, but in my construction of Regulation 72, the building permit for work of this sort is not required when used for the development of such claim. The brush has been piled and the road in good condition.

Thomas Kennerely

July 20, 1906

Road
Blue Mountain Reserve.

This is a case similar to that of Flartherty, except the road is built on other claims besides his own, none of which are patented. It extends in a zigzag course down grade for a distance of 6,900 ft in an average width of 10 ft. It does not pass through much timbered area. Over his own claim there is no timber, and that portion of the road passing through claims owned by others is through mostly dead timber. Mr. Kennerely being anxious to comply with all forest reserve rules and regulations, and not fully understanding but what the permit was required for all development work on his mine made application, and the permit was granted. As stipulated in his contract brush was to be piled, and at the time of my inspection several piles of material cleared from the road was being burned. The question rises, could not the owners, even after he had obtained their consent for constructing a road over their claims, prohibited him from burning the brush or disposing of any material on their claims. This road is to be used entirely for individual purposes, and is not a commercial enterprise. No charge has been required for the construction and use of the road. I recommend, that since the permit has been issued, that no further requirements be made, and that the forest officers be instructed definitely in a proper manner of handling all such cases in the future.

W. H. Robinson

July 14, 1906

Repair of Road
Blue Mountain Reserve

This road was in actual use long before the reserve was created. Mr. Robinson desired to repair the road by cutting out the brush and fallen timbers. It is three and one-half miles long, and extends over much public reserve land. The permit was granted July 21st, and the brush is being piled and cared for under the direction of Ranger Berry.

Aurela Gold Mining Co.

July 6, 1906.

Road
Blue Mountain Res.

This road, described in the application, extends over their mine to the old road on the Grande Ronde River, and is about five and one-half miles in length. I did not examine this privilege, hence cannot report on how work is being carried on in the field. I think, however, the construction of this road a very good thing. It will assist the forest officers to travel through a part of the reserve, which is now difficult to get over on account of the dense Lodge Pole Pine patches, and a clear understanding should be secured that it will at all times be open to the use of forest officers.

M. B. Dickenson
July 21, 1906

Hay
Blue Mountain Reserve.

This is an application to cut hay on a meadow located near Crane's Flat, consisting of 8-1/3 acres. The charge fixed on hay is \$1.25 per cord, amounting to, in all, \$10.42. The money has been forwarded, and the permit granted. There is no objection to this privilege in any way for this season, and I recommend that this area be examined by the forest officers to determine if suitable for Ranger Headquarter sites. There is, however, a selected site near this area, and if it is not absolutely necessary for raising hay for the forest officer, this area will always be a source of considerable income, because hay can be sold there at each season.

S. W. Guthridge
July 27, 1906

Hay
Blue Mountain Reserve.

This area, consisting of fifteen acres, is located on unpatented mining claims. The Muratt Homestead headquarter site is within all one mile of this area, hence I do not believe the mining claim should be reported on with a view of securing this area for ranger headquarter purposes. The value fixed on this hay is \$1.00 per acre. In both of these hay cutting privileges, the price per acre is sufficiently high. A good precedent has been established in this respect.

CLAIMS: Numerous mining claims will be investigated and reported upon this fall, and it will form a very important part of the work of the forest officers. I have no definite data, and have made an examination of none of these claims, hence, will not include same in my report.

Several agricultural claims have also been examined, and in the northwestern part of the reserve a great many more will have to be examined very soon.

No. 1 Sandy Richardson.
Reported October 28, 1905.

Claims
C.C. 6662. H.E. 9915

Only forty acres of this claim exists within the forest reserve; the remainder is along the boundary. Mr. Richardson has an area of about five acres under cultivation in the vicinity of his house, and is living with his family on the claim. The house is sufficiently large and well constructed. The ground for agriculture is not great, and possibly cannot

support the family; however, something like fifty acres located on the hill can be cultivated, and water can be secured on it. This area, however is outside the reserve.

The claim seems to me to be valid, and taken up in good faith. Mr. Richardson has lived on it for the past four years, and desires to secure a patent at the end of five. In connection with raising some garden vegetables on this five acres, he is working in a neighboring saw-mill.

I recommend that the claim be favorably reported.

Eleirt Eleirtson

Reported on March 13, 1905.

Claim:

H.E. 8777

This claim is located on Rock Creek in the former Baker City Reserve, and consists of something like forty acres of meadow land, most of which is under cultivation. He has built him a substantial cabin and lives on the claim, and at the same time is working as watchman and patrolman for the Baker Light and Power Co. transmission line, which passes through a portion of his claim.

He should be allowed to patent the claim, and I recommend a favorable report on it.

M. H. Knapp

Reported Jan. 17, 1905.

Claim.

H.C. 9952

This claim is not a legitimate one. There is scarcely any agricultural land upon it. The claimant has not lived successively on the land, and has held it as a squatter's right for the past fifteen years, and now since the land is surveyed desires to patent. He does not live upon it at present, and has done no improvement work. The timber was cut from it years ago. An old trespass, for which he is not entirely responsible, and for which he cannot settle, since he is an exceedingly poor man. This claim should be reported adversely.

There are two existing saloons on unpatented ground within the boundaries of the reserve. One of these is located near Lehman Springs on an unpatented and an illegal agricultural claim. This claim has been reported adversely, since the entryman has never attempted to establish a homestead or live upon it. Notice has been served on the occupant of the saloon to vacate the area.

Another saloon, called the "Half Way" saloon, owned by George White, is situated on unpatented mining claim along the roadway between Sumpter and Bourne. He has been dealing in the sale of liquors at this stand for many years. The claim has not yet been examined, and Supervisor Terrell is quite certain it is a non-paying one, and will make a thorough examination.

I recommend that an immediate notice to vacate the area be served on him.

SUMMARY, CLAIMS AND PRIVILEGES.

1. BAKER LIGHT & POWER CO: Recommend that such trees, which are liable to fall across the wires of the transmission line, be removed from time to time at the Company's discretion, under the direction of a forest officer.

(a) That the Supervisor be instructed to relieve the company of any requirement to remove the piles of logs and poles from the right of way, and that no attempt shall be made by the company to burn or otherwise dispose of them.

(b) That, if within the limits of law the Supervisor be instructed to make an effort to give away or sell this material to the best advantage.

2. FREMONT POWER COMPANY: Was really a trespass, but was relieved of this aspect by the willingness shown by the company in making an application agreeing to comply with all provisions in the contract. The brush should be piled which has resulted from the cutting of green trees. No further disposal of the dead material along the right of way is recommended.

3. OPHIR MINES: The brush is not piled. Recommend that Company be required to clean up all the debris and pile it.

4. E. FLARTHERTY: A road built on applicant's own mining claim. Recommend that no further requirements be imposed upon the applicant for this privilege.

5. THOS. KENNERELY: Recommend that no further requirements be made, and that forest officers be instructed to allow such construction work in the future without permit.

6. AURELA GOLD MINING COMPANY: A very serviceable road which can be used by the forest officers. Recommend that such understanding be obtained between applicant and the forest officers.

7. M.D. DICKENSON: HAY. Recommend that the area from which hay was cut be examined by forest officers to determine if suitable for head-quarter site.

8. S. W. GUTHRIDGE: HAY. A good precedent has been established in this as well as above hay privilege, by fixing the value of the hay at \$1.00 per acre, which is about the proper amount.

CLAIMS:

9. SANDY RICHARDSON: Agricultural Settlement. Recommend the claim be favorably reported.

10. ELEIRT ELEIRTSON: Agricultural Settlement. Recommend a favorable report on this claim.

11. M. H. KNAPP Agricultural Settlement. Recommend this case be reported adversely.

12. There were two saloons existing on the reserve on unpatented claims. One of these has been served notice to vacate the ground on which he was located.

(a) I recommend immediate notice be served on George White, owner of the other saloon, to close his business immediately.

(Signed) M. L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

ADDITIONS AND ELIMINATIONS:

No recommendations for eliminations in any part of the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve Eastern Division are advisable, but several areas for additions seems promising. Time did not permit making examinations of any areas so as to make definite recommendations for inclusion within any reserve. The following recommendations are for withdrawal from entry and settlement, and for examination.

Petitions, circulated by people in the vicinity of Pilot Rock and Ukiah, asking for the creation of a reserve of a large area lying south of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and north of the Blue Mountains Reserve, East, and west of the reserve including much of the land now in the recently established Heppner Reserve, was found, upon examination of the Land Office Recorder, to be almost entirely alienated land. Out of the large area included within the petitions, only the following are advised to be withdrawn and examined:

Ranges 32, 31, 30, East, all in Township 4 South, and the south half of T. 4 S., R. 30 E., W.M. These areas, if found to be suitable for forest reserve land, will make a strip connecting the Heppner and Blue Mountains Reserve, in which case that portion of the Blue Mountains Reserve lying north of the town line between T. 5 and 6 South, and west of the range line between 35 and 36, should be designated as a part of the Heppner area, and placed under the same administration with the Heppner Reserve, when it becomes organized. The reason for recommending such a division of the Blue Mountain Reserve is that the varied interests affected in the northern part of the reserve are the same as those which would be influenced by the Heppner Reserve.

A long narrow belt of high timbered hills lying between the Middle Fork and Main John Day river, forming the headquarters [headwaters] of many small streams, should have been included in the original proclamation of the Blue Mountain Reserve. It is now being entered under the Stone and Timber Act very rapidly, but perhaps enough of this area can be held from alienation for reserve purposes if it is immediately withdrawn. The suitable areas comprise the following townships:

R. 29, T. 9 S., Ranges 28, 29, 30, 30-1/2 and 31 East, all in T. 10 S., W.M., Ranges 27, 28, 30-1/2, 31, 32, all in T. 11 S., W.M., Ranges 27, 29, 30, 30-1/2, half of 31, all in T. 12. S., W.M.

I recommend that the above areas be withdrawn immediately and examined soon.

A withdrawn area comprising about seven townships, lying in the Malheur river watershed just south of the Eastern division is desired to be thrown open to entry and filing by parties interested in securing the timber. A petition requesting that this area be opened to settlement is being circulated by them. The land in question is included in the following townships:

Ranges 35 and 36 E., T. 15 S.; Ranges 33-1/2, 34, 35, T 16 S., T. 17 S, R. 34 E., W.M. This land has been partly examined. It is entirely timbered with excellent yellow pine and tamerack, and forms an important part of the Malheur watershed.

I recommend it be examined. A portion of the area may be included in The Dalles Military Wagon Road Land Grant, but this could not be ascertained, since it is within the Burns Land Office district, and I did not visit the Burns Land Office.

(Signed) M. L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

PERSONNEL

Virtually on the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve Eastern Division two executive officers have been on duty since the creation of the Reserve. Sup't D. B. Sheller had charge during the organization of the Reserve and until the grazing business was adjusted, when, on August 1st, Mr. S.S. Terrell was appointed Supervisor at \$1200.00 per annum. This changed the responsibility from Mr. Sheller to Mr. Terrell, made the difficulty of showing responsibility for ill-order in the office and mistakes difficult to place. At Mr. Sheller's own request, and approval by the Foresters, he began an examination of the Reserve July 15th to become familiar with it, leaving the administration of the Reserve entirely in the hands of Supervisor Terrell. The regulation of grazing was up to this time the only business on the new Reserve, and occupied the entire attention of all the Forester officers. Since the administration of the Reserve did not take effect until May; the rush of work in connection with holding stock meetings, preparing and sending out notices in regard to grazing, receiving applications and answering correspondence came on with a rush and for a time swamped the office, but the work was completed without much disorder resulting.

In general the result of the stock meetings was a success, in fact Mr. Sheller, who conducted these meetings, showed surprising ability in pacifying the various interests, making both the cattle and sheep men agree without much conflict as to the division of

their ranges. Perhaps in connection with the Reserve more difficulties in the grazing business arose than on other Reserves, because of the envious desirability of the Blue Mountains for summer ranging for all stock men, and the fact that transient sheep men had practically controlled this in previous years, and were making a last fight to hold a summer range for their sheep. It is not too much to say that Mr. Sheller handled the grazing situation among a group of men who are considered exceedingly difficult to deal with. The fact that he attempted in all cases to compromise and settle differences, and usually succeeds, is the secret of his success in dealing with stock men. From my contact with the stock men on the Reserve I have found none now who are opposed to the policy of the administration of Forest Reserves. The sentiment among the mining districts, which were entirely opposed to the creation of the Reserve, was the hardest to win the favor of, but a good deal of missionary work, a careful explanation, as well as dealings with several companies has greatly aided in bringing about a different sentiment, and I believe that fifty per cent of all the miners are now very favorably inclined toward the establishing of the Reserve. It is only lately that Mr. Sheller has had occasion to come in contact with the miners, and I notice a decided change in their sentiment, resulting from his visits. On the other hand Mr. Sheller displays a tendency to be lax in many things, especially in relation to grazing trespass. His intention was to allow the stockmen to trespass this year, and merely to deny them the grazing privilege next year as a penalty. He also overlooked the requirement of brush piling in two special privilege cases, and is partly responsible with Mr. Terrell for the mixed condition of the office records, which I found to exist when first inspecting the office, but which are now adjusted in fair shape.

I do not believe that Mr. Sheller would succeed especially well in administration of a forest reserve in which he had to deal with every phase of the reserve business, but in the matter of grazing he deserves credit for the friendly feeling secured among the stockmen.

SUPERVISOR S. S. TERRELL: Was in charge of former Baker City Forest Reserve. He acquired very little experience from this during the time he held the position, for there was very little business outside of the protection from fire. There was no sheep grazing, and the small number of cattle on the area afforded him very little work or trouble. For the duties connected with the Blue Mountain area, he practically had to learn the reserve business, especially the grazing, as a new man would. He is fifty-nine years of age and does not readily grasp new situations, but is making an honest attempt to do so, however, and has done some considerable improvement since I came here. The magnitude of the work on the Blue Mt. reserve compared to the little he had to do on the former Baker City Reserve could not hardly be realized by Mr. Terrell, and to adapt himself to handle this work is really too much for him; although Mr. Terrell is conscientious, careful and well meaning, and uses good judgement as evidenced in his handling the privileges and trespasses on the former Baker City area, yet he lacks the capacity of handling big things. He could not have conducted the grazing situation this year, nor will he be able to adjust differences and make allotments for next season. His makeup is not conducive to fast work. He is, indeed, very slow. The amount of office work accomplished by him is very limited. In a Reserve requiring as much work as Blue

Mts. East, a man is required who can dispose of matters without delay and get results. Mr. Terrell is subject to delaying matters for the sake of weighing them carefully and deliberately before making any decision. It seems to me that he should know at the moment how most of these things should be handled; however, he has this advantage that he rarely makes a mistake in technical matters, for what he cannot decide himself he refers promptly to the Forester. Exercise of tact by him is rarely evidenced - in fact he lacks it. In his own town he is not sufficiently popular, and the people he has to deal with are not generally impressed by him, and usually have nothing good to say of his qualities. The stock men in particular have expressed a desire to not do business with him. I think this is due to the fact that he is too afraid of saying anything which might be misconstrued and used afterwards to hold him. This not only applies to the people who use the Reserve, but also to some of the officers of the reserve serving under him. He has already incurred the dislike of two of the Guards when there should have been no reason for it. In other words, he lacks executive ability, and uses poor judgment in handling men. Thoroughness, however, is a characteristic feature of Mr. Terrell's work, and he deserves credit for the excellent way in which he has handled the trespass and privileges cases on the former Baker City Reserve.

It is very evident that Mr. Terrell is not the man to take charge of the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve Eastern Division just now when there is so many important questions to be taken care of and discussed, and the necessity of bringing about harmony between the mining and stock interests; therefore, I strongly recommend that Mr. Sheller resume charge of the Blue Mountain Reserve East, October 1st, and that Mr. Terrell be made, Deputy Supervisor at his present salary. Due to the dearth of available Supervisor material in Oregon I cannot recommend any new man for this position - at any rate a person experienced in grazing must be in charge until the opening of the next grazing season. Mr. Terrell in the capacity of Deputy Supervisor would be very useful just now for work on privilege and trespass and examination of mining claims and agricultural lands, the kind of work he is best fitted for. He possesses more familiarity with mining than Mr. Sheller, and is probably the best man for this kind of work available. The mining business, as before mentioned, will occupy a great portion of the time of the Forest Supervisor, and will keep a man busy all the year at this alone. Should Mr. Terrell object to being made Deputy Supervisor and resign, his resignation should be accepted.

ASSISTANT FOREST RANGER, W.E. BERRY: Was in the service as Forest Guard at the former Baker City Forest Reserve when the Blue Mountains was created. The small amount of work there placed him in an unfavorable position when the additional duties developed in connection with a new forest reserve. He has hardly been able to grasp the situation, so as to cover more ground and attend to more work of a different kind; he has been employed mainly for work on privileges, claims, trespasses. He does as directed and has accomplished very satisfactory results; but Mr. Terrell has the habit of giving instructions verbally, and often calls a forest officer, after attending to one matter, for instructions about another, and Mr. Berry has been called from the field very often for this purpose. The method results in loss of time and shows poor executive ability by Mr. Terrell, and does not give Mr. Berry credit for the amount of work he could do, as

several hours each day are lost in traveling to and from town which Mr. Berry could use to the best advantage in the execution of his work on trespasses, privileges and timber sales, and he could just as well receive all, or at least part of his instructions by mail as well as verbally, and in that way remain in the field. If Mr. Berry should have been working under a hustling Supervisor I believe he would have shown by this time to have developed into a first-class Ranger. He is a son-in-law of Mr. Terrell, and for this reason seems to have been shown some preferences - at least it has resulted in making two of the Forest Guards believe so. In the assignment of work he should be stationed with headquarters at Granite on the Muratt Homestead, so as not to be in a position to be called into Sumpter so often. He has done very good work in the execution of trespasses and special privileges on the former Baker City Area under the direction of Supervisor Terrell; in fact the work along the right of way of the Baker Light & Power Company's transmission line the brush piling has been carried out most satisfactorily under his direction. He was given the position of Assistant Forest Ranger at \$75.00 per month on the first of January, but owing to the conditions as they exist on the Blue Mountain Reserve at present I can recommend no raise in his salary until a raise can be made in the salary of several of the competent men now serving as Forest Guards.

GUARD V. J. DAWSON: Thirty-two years of age. Is the best of the new men. He is energetic, capable and a hustler. He takes to the work readily and comprehends situations quickly. He has a good education and possesses considerable executive ability. His experience with stock in Oklahoma, ranching in Texas and the La Grande Valley, together with a fair education (partly college) fits him very admirably for the position of Forest Ranger. He makes a good forest officer, and possesses qualities, which, developed by more experience, will class him as Supervisor material. He is proving a very efficient officer, and will be one of the first men in line for promotion. His specialty is the grazing business, in which he has shown proficiency in handling stock and adjusting differences. In the absence of the Supervisor he is the best man to take charge, and any other time he would be useful in the office, especially so in grazing matters. He has recently resigned his position as Forest Guard on account of the illness of his wife, and I believe also on account of the small salary, for this was the bone of contention when I was with him.

He should be requested to go on duty as Assistant Forest Ranger as soon as he receives his rating. He will be useful to assist in the office, especially during the rush of grazing matters, and in the absence of the Supervisor he is the best man to take charge.

GUARD THOMAS H. PARKER: Is 38 years of age and is an efficient Forest Officer; does good work, and has had a lot of western experience to aid him in his work; being possessed of a wide list of interesting experiences in the West, which in a measure counteracted neglect of education training, he possesses the qualities of assurance and good common practical sense with an aptitude towards expressing ideas original and useful for the improvement of forest reserves. His experience and his keen analytical mind fit him very well for the delicate work connected with the mining business of a forest reserve. His services will be most valuable in the timber sales, privileges,

trespasses and examination of mining claims. One feature which I think can be worked out of him, as I notice it has a tendency to diminish, is his inclination toward extreme sarcasm about anybody he dislikes and a tendency to show officiousness. Parker is in very good circumstances, and by no means takes this position for the purpose of having a definite occupation and for the salary connected with it, but does so for the fact that he likes the work and hopes for advancement. He is inclined to be rather strict in the enforcement of the regulations, and to interpret them without any allowance, but in spite of this fact and that he is inclined to be officious at times, the people like him well, and he has little trouble in keeping his district in good shape. He will make a fair hand in the office, and should be used alternately with Dawson when there is much office work to be done.

GUARD M. J. SULLENS: Is another stockman who has shown efficiency this year in handling the grazing situation. Is experienced in "buckerooing" in the John Day country and has camp tendered, besides the fact he has lived all his life in the stock country adjacent to the Reserve fits him admirably for the position of Forest officer in regions where grazing is the principal business. He possesses good judgment, does thorough work, and is a man entirely reliable. Not only is his experience limited to stock ranging, but he has worked in the mines, worked in the saw mill and has gleaned a clear understanding of the nature of nearly all the work which will be required of Forest Officers on any Reserve. Another advantage possessed by him on this Reserve, is that he knows the southern portion of it well, having lived in that part of the country all his life. He, perhaps, makes the poorest reports of any of the officers, yet in these reports he makes definite and usually very good recommendations. He is a big husky fellow, possessing nerve and backbone. He is straight in dealing with people and considerate, but when he does give an order he firmly expects and sees that it will be obeyed. He was given an exceedingly large area to ride this season, and he has done remarkably well in covering the ground. He is a young man about 24 years of age, is capable of developing into the deputy grade, and if he could show improvement on his reports very likely to the Forest Ranger grade. I have recommended he remain on duty all the year as Assistant Forest Ranger.

Two additional forest guards were secured the early part of the summer, but one resigned after one week's service, and the other remained for nearly two months and then resigned because he was called to attend the meeting of the National Military Guards, of which organization he was a member. The former, S. W. Smith, resigned on account of excessive living expenses compared to his small salary. While Guard T. H. Williamson was doing excellent work, and were he so situated as to have severed his connection with the National Military Guards, he would have proved a valuable forest officer; but he considered the chances for advancement, and the raise in salary insufficient to warrant such action.

As a whole the personnel is composed of very excellent material, which, with more practical training, will result in having a very efficient and permanent force of men on Blue Mountain Forest Reserve; but the number is entirely inadequate for the duties connected with it. The reserve, comprising an area approximately of 1,100,000 acres,

was allowed six forest guards, and one assistant forest ranger for the summer season, but only four guards were secured, and one of these furnished but two months service. The reason of the difficulty in securing men of any desirability to serve as forest guards, is the high cost of living in this country, and the fact that more money can be earned at any other occupation. The ordinary laborer who receives from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per day saves more in the long run than the forest guard; while compared with the miner, the lumber jack, camp tender, or even sheep herder, his salary, although seemingly adequate, is, after he supports himself and furnishes his saddle and pack horses, a less desirable position from a money point of view. A great handicap to forest officers is the lack of feed grounds on the reserve for their horses. This, of course, is equally true on all new reserves which have been sheeped years past, but in the Blue Mountains there was scarcely any available places for pasturing horses, and it was necessary to carry grain, which increases the living expenses. Under such circumstances in which the forest officers are financially embarrassed it becomes very difficult to cultivate any "esprit de corps" among the force, which to the successful working of the reserve is quite desirable. One fact that I found, which tends to discourage desirable persons entering the forest service, and which results in comments by residents in the vicinity of forest reserve, is that ordinary work on the ranch is much more desirable than the hard work and small salary connected with a position as forest ranger. Under the circumstances, as I understand them, this cannot at present be helped very much, but if it can be aided in any way there is a crying need for a raise in the salaries of efficient officers on the Blue Mountain Forest Reserve. The cost of living in any mining region is higher than in agricultural settlements, and the Blue Mountains Reserve includes extensive mining districts. Therefore I **recommend** that all forest officers in the Eastern Division Blue Mountain Reserve be Assistant Forest Rangers, if they are possible to secure, and be paid at the rate of \$75.00 per month, for I believe it is almost impossible to secure forest Guards at \$60.00 a month next season, since the men that came on this year at this salary accepted the position only with the hope of promotion next year, one can no longer entice men to accept positions of forest Guards by picturing favorable opportunities for advancement.

I can make no recommendations for the raise in salary of the forest Guards on the Reserve now since they have not yet received their civil-service rating, and until I am assured that they have passed the civil-service examination I make only this provisional recommendation: that Dawson, Parker and Berry receive promotions to the deputy grade at a salary of \$1,000 per annum in July 1907, instead of January 1st, 1908, on the ground that such promotion is warranted because of the excessive cost of living; but before this time, I would like to investigate and review the ranger force again to determine the advisability of these promotions.

Because of a lack of men, patrol work was sadly neglected this year, and it was very fortunate, indeed, that no serious forest fires occurred. The grazing has been neglected, as is plain by the number of trespasses which have occurred, and it was impossible to ascertain if other trespasses were committed in some parts of the reserve where the forest officers had no time to visit. It was very difficult for the forest officers to keep trace of the different bands of sheep on the reserve while there was other work in

the nature of reports of trespasses and "free use" to attend to and care for. These districts should be changed for greater convenience for controlling and to suit the adaptability of the men.

It was quite impossible to get a full force of men this year, for they refused to work for the salary offered. This accounts for the short-handed force this season.

I recommend that a force of nine men all told be employed for the next summer's season for patrol work, and regulating the grazing allotments. Ordinarily a reserve of this size and this amount of work would require the services of two or three additional men, but because I have recommended a high grade of men be employed, a larger salary be paid, I think the force can be reduced to nine men, and the reserve cared for in good shape. Three of the five new Assistant Forest Rangers should be employed six months, and the remaining two furloughed after four months service.

I strongly recommend that Assistant Forest Ranger Berry and Guards Dawson, Parker and Sullers be kept on duty this fall and winter, and that the latter three be immediately appointed Assistant Forest Ranger at a salary of \$900.00 per annum as soon as receiving civil-service ratings, should they pass examination. Berry, Parker and Dawson should be considered for promotion to deputy forest ranger at \$1,000.00 per annum on July 1st, 1907, since the excessive cost of living deducts so much from their salary that they can save little or nothing on \$75.00 per month, and should receive a slightly greater salary before January 1st, 1908.

The necessity of retaining the services of four men the year around is perfectly evident by the amount of work to be done. Since the principal mines of Eastern Oregon are located in this reserve, there will be a great deal of mining business to attend to in the winter as well as in the summer, the important work that the rangers, and deputy supervisors can be engaged in to the best advantage, for the Fall, Winter and Spring is:

- (1) Examination of mining claims.
- (2) Receiving applications for special privileges, and carrying out their execution.
- (3) Ferreting out and settling trespasses.
- (4) Handling timber sales.
- (5) Large amount of free use business.
- (6) Running reserve boundary lines.
- (7) Cutting new trails and repairing old ones.
- (8) Building cabins.
- (9) Constructing pastures around selected ranger sites.
- (10) Establishing look-out stations.
- (11) Improving the maps.
- (12) Assisting in allotting range to stock men.

The ranger districts this season corresponded nearly with the grazing districts. Since this caused the rangers to ride around very irregular areas it was a bad division. These districts should be changed for greater convenience for patrolling and to suit the

adaptability of the men; therefore, I recommend that Parker be stationed with headquarters at Bourne to guard the former Baker City area, Cracker, Bourne, Cable Cove and Sumpter districts. The work in this district will be in relation to mining, timber sales, privileges and trespasses. Another rangers' district should be located at the Murratt headquarters, near Granite, and should include the Bald Mountain, Crane Creek, Granite, Red Boy and the Green Horn district.

I recommend that Berry be placed here, so that he will be at sufficiently safe distance from the supervisor's headquarters, and will have no occasion to come into town so often; also the nature of the work in this district will be such as he is best fitted for - that is, execution of special privileges, trespasses and timber sale work. The Northern part of the reserve will require a ranger exclusively to cover a very large area bounded on three sides by agricultural settlement, in which there will be a great amount of free use business; also have much trail cutting, cabin construction work to be done, besides reserve boundaries to run; but I think most of this work can be done in the winter time, and only such part of the reserve boundaries as lie along the lower country should be attempted at a time of deep snow.

I recommend that Dawson be assigned to this district, as the work is fitted for him, and he is acquainted with the conditions there already.

The Ranger in the southern district, with headquarters in the vicinity of Austin, will have a great deal of free use business to attend to for the settlers of Burnt River, Prairie Falls and John Day. His other work this fall and next spring will be trail cutting, cabin building, cutting poles for Ranger pastures, boundary work and map making. Such work as cutting out logs for cabins and cutting poles for jack fences around pastures, boundary work in the lower country and the free use business can all be done in the winter time. He will also have one small mining district in his division, which will occupy a part of his time in the examination of claims.

I recommend that Sullens be assigned to this district, as he has been riding it all summer, and he is thoroughly acquainted with the work most necessary to be done in it. Also it is a district where there are to be some change in the cattle and horse ranges, and since Sullens has for years been familiar with the country and conditions he can be of great assistance in aiding in making this change.

I do not advise the assignment of technical assistance to the reserve while the position of Deputy Supervisor lasts, although I cannot deny the usefulness of the assistant on this reserve for map work and for timber sales, but the unused appropriation for the technical assistant can be allotted so as to aid in the employ of two additional assistants for rangers for the winter and to apply to the increased salaries of the forest officers. In general I think the allotment should be changed on this reserve very materially, and none of the appropriation should be taken away.

EQUIPMENT

The headquarters of the reserve is established in a convenient building in the main part of the city, and the office is roomy and well lighted. A flag pole has been erected in front of the office and "Old Glory" is flung to the breeze every morning. I recommend, however, a suitable sign to be attached to the front of the office.

I believe Sumpter is as good a location for the office of the reserve as any town that could be named. It is convenient and quite centrally located, and both mail and telegraphic facilities are good. The equipment for forest reserve work is not complete as yet; but for the ordinary field tools there will need be no new supply for sometime, as Mr. Shellers brought from Tacoma a supply of implements which he had stored there. A very necessary adjunct are two gold pans, since examination of mining claims, both placer and lode claims will be important work. The office needs a long table for the use of forest officers when called in, which may also be used for the disposal of books, bulletins, etc. In addition to this another office desk and chair for the use of the Deputy Supervisor is requested. No additional filing records are needed.

No fencing material has yet been obtained, and considerable of this will be needed in fencing ranger headquarters.

The filing of grazing applications and special transactions, as well as correspondence, was in bad shape when I first visited the office. This was due to neglect or carelessness or both and to an overflow of work. I don't know to whom to place the responsibility of this disorder since both Mr. Shellers and Mr. Terrell were in the office at intervals. I hardly think, however, that a reprimand on this score is advisable since upon my mild suggestion and direction the records have been improved and are now in fair shape.

The existing maps of the reserve lack detail and are unreliable. It cannot be expected that much careful mapping can be done this year; but I have recommended that the forest rangers map on township plats portions of their district sufficiently well, so as to aid materially in assigning and defining grazing allotments next season. A portion of the reserve is well mapped by mining engineers, and these maps can be procured cheaply, and be of service in the office.

PROTECTION.

Forest fires have done serious damage to the reserve in the past. This damage is noticeably apparent around Olive Lake, the head of Desolation Creek, and all along the main divide of the Blue Mts., North from Granite to the northern boundary of the reserve. These areas are being re-stocked rapidly with lodge pole pine thickets. In general the greatest danger from forest fires will result in the lodge pole pine forests which are usually intermingled with much dead and down stuff, and a fire started in them and once under headway would be difficult to check. Fortunately only three small fires occurred on the reserve this year, and these, luckily, were discovered and promptly extinguished by the forest officers. This has been an exceedingly favorable year for freedom from forest fires, because of the frequent midsummer rains; but this same risk should not be undergone next season, and at all hazards a larger force of men should

be employed to guard against a forest fire gaining much headway. A frequent cause of forest fires is lightning; hence it is necessary that forest officers immediately begin patrol after each thunder storm. The attitude of the residents near the reserve, and the fire laws of the Department of Agriculture, have been very effective in prompting considerable care to be exercised by people who use the forest reserve.

ROADS.

Several well traveled roads pass through the reserve; a principal one goes from Sumpter to Granite, and from there north to Starkey, which is a distance of about fifty miles. Another good road runs from Starkey to Fly Valley and Lehman Springs, a distance of fifteen miles. A series of roads connect the different mining districts, most of which are pretty well traveled now; one of these leads from Granite to Green Horn, from Green Horn to Austin, another from Green Horn to Whitney; a good mining road connects with Red Boy Mine and on to Olive Lake, and a main traveled stage road runs from Austin to Prairie City. In the mining district numerous roads cut up the reserve, making access to these parts easy. A very important road leads from Sumpter to Bourne and Cable Cove - in all a distance of twelve miles. There are numerous other roads which are not well traveled now, consequently are obstructed by fallen trees and other debris. Some of these can be utilized for trails with a little cleaning out, while some lead to nowhere, and will hardly pay to brush out.

Mining has been an important industry in this country for the last twenty years, and many of the old roads built in those days have long since been abandoned. One noticeable fact is that no roads lead through parts of reserve where patrol is most needed, hence cannot be used for any such purposes, but for going over the country rapidly these roads are very serviceable to haul supplies and camping outfit in case of large fires.

TRAILS: The existing trails in the reserve are frequent, but in many cases are not located where most needed. Most of them are exceedingly poor, and some are so badly obstructed by fallen logs and with brush that they hardly deserve the name. An old Indian trail can be traced from one end of the reserve, following in most cases the main divide to the other end of the reserve, but sheep grazing over the trail has so obliterated it in places that it requires an expert with much time on his hands to trace it.

I recommend that this trail be relocated and cut out for its whole length, since it will be a very feasible one for patrol.

In the mining districts numerous trails lead to some abandoned prospect, and are scattered at frequent intervals. These trails are misleading and should be marked with suitable sign boards to indicate where they lead. An old trail exists from Granite down the North Fork of John Day river, which makes a short cut route to connect with a wagon road and trail to the Ophir Mines and Cable Cove district, running in an easterly and westerly direction across the reserve; but that portion from Granite down the North Fork of the John Day River needs considerable repairing. Several new trails ought to

be established, and I recommend that one be built from Lehman Springs, south, to Olive Lake and on to Staulters Mine, and then across the Green Horn Mts to the middle fork of John Day River; another be constructed from North Powder Lakes in a most direct route north to the Grande Ronde River, and that a third, which is quite important, be built from Prairie Valley up Reynolds Creek to the Little Baldy Mts to connect with the old Indian trail. The cost of constructing good trails in the Reserve is very little, since it is hardly ever necessary to do any grading or rock work. Generally all that is required, since these trails will traverse through lodge pole pine timber, is to chop out wind falls and to clean out the brush. I recommend that trail work be begun at once, and that it be an important work of the Rangers as long as the snow absolutely bars them from further work. In general the reserve is easily accessible in all parts by the numerous wagon roads and trains which exist. With a knowledge of the country it is possible to go quickly from headquarters to any part of the country in a very direct route. Many short cuts from one part of the reserve to another can be made by building short trails to main routes, which will be established by completing the ones recommended. These will make the question of accessibility to all parts on the reserve a very desirable feature.

CABINS: In the selection of ranger headquarter sites three old cabins were secured. A very good one is the cabin on Murratt Homestead, located near Granite, which needs no repairing. Another good cabin is located on the Lost Creek Meadows, but it is dirty and uninviting inside; however, with a little work this can be made a very suitable cabin on account of its location, but cannot be used for winter headquarters. It will, however, make a very good rangers' camp for other seasons of the year. A third cabin is located somewhere in the vicinity of North Powder Lakes, which I did not visit, but upon the information of Guard Parker, I learn it is a very suitable one; however, the certainty of its occupancy for the use of forest officers is not yet fully established. These cabins, with the exception of the Murratt, are not located where headquarters will be used this winter; therefore, I recommend that three additional cabins be constructed. One should be built in district #5 on Big Squaw Meadows, another in the vicinity of Lehman Springs, and the third, if an abandoned miners' cabin cannot be secured, should be established at Bourne. The cabin built last winter by Assistant Forest Ranger Berry, on Marble Creek in the former Baker City Reserve, although a good location for that reserve alone, is now very inconvenient as a headquarter camp, since the districts are changed so as to include a large portion of the newly created Blue Mt. reserve. This cabin was very well constructed by Mr. Berry, for which work he deserves credit. The cost of each of these cabins need not exceed fifty dollars. They should be well constructed, and furnished with a good range for cooking and heating. The ranger headquarter sites thus far selected are good ones, and many of them will produce some hay, which will be a great factor on this reserve in reducing the excessive cost of supporting two or more horses. There should, however, be a great many more pasture sites selected for use of forest officers in the summer time during the patrol and grazing season, as this lack was a great handicap to the forest officers in going about the reserve without grass for horse feed, and desirable camp grounds could not be secured as all the feed had been eaten out by the sheep.

LOOK-OUT STATIONS.

Over large portion of the reserve the mountains are broad rolling hills entirely timbered, so that it is impossible to obtain a view of much country, which is desirable and almost necessary to obtain during the fire season. I would recommend constructing Look-out stations at suitable places along the summit. These need not be elaborate at first. In many instances a large tree may be selected and cross strips tacked on this tree, so as to facilitate climbing and the limbs toward the top lopped off, so as to give an unobstructed view in all directions, and then such timber that still obstructs the view in the vicinity of such a selected tree, should be chopped out. There are very few open or barren hills on the reserve from which one could view large areas; therefore, lookout stations should be established along the timbered divide in the interior of the reserve. Such stations with trails leading to them are invaluable during the fire season, and will accordingly improve the patrol service. There need be no expense connected with the construction and the establishment of look-out stations.

TELEPHONES: In accordance with the policy outlined in the Use Book, the establishment of telephones to give direct communication to the head office and the other forest rangers it is advisable to connect their ranger headquarters with lookout stations and the main office. The allotment for protection this year is not sufficient to warrant much work in the establishment of telephone communication on the Reserve, but as soon as more money is available, I would recommend the following telephone routes be established:

From Lehman Springs to Starkey and south to Murratt Headquarters; connect Murratt Headquarters with the main line, which is within a half mile of the headwaters site. This will give communication to a portion of the reserve which is now quite distant and difficult to reach by mail or telephone. Another line should connect Austin with the headquarters on Big Squaw Meadows, and should extend along the main divide for considerable distance, connecting with all look-out stations as far as Table Rock at the headquarters of Malheur and Burnt River. There are numerous private and company telephone lines throughout the mining districts which should be used in connection with forest reserve telephones, so as not to incur any expense for their use.

I recommend that the Supervisor be instructed to do all in his power to bring about such an arrangement. More telephone lines on the reserve should be constructed when money will permit.

GAME: Deer in the lower country which has not been sheeped for the past year is quite abundant. Elks are known to range in the mountains in several places, probably comprising from 50 to 75 head. The greatest depredation to game is perpetrated by the Umatilla Indians, who come in bands in the fall with their horses and hunt and slaughter same indiscriminately for their winter's food supply. They not only kill deer, but have been known to slaughter elks in great numbers, and their practice is a system of driving the game to the lower country, and in a way corralling them and then slaughtering the whole bunch. This unsportsmanlike manner of exploiting the game should be checked in every way possible by the forest officers.

BOUNDARY LINES: Very little boundary line of the reserve has been run out and posted. The men coming on late in the season were occupied from the start with caring for the grazing matters, and had very little time to devote to other work. One of the horse and cattle ranges has been run out and posted. I have recommended that the men engaged for duty be assigned to this work for the winter, wherever the boundaries can be run without encountering too much snow. This work can be done only in the lower countries in the winter time. The boundary of the reserve is very irregular, and amounts to 450 miles all told. The work of running this boundary will be an immense job, and cannot be reasonably expected to be finished next year. It seems to me to be quite important that the boundaries be marked out or clearly defined so as to know when trespasses on the reserve occur.

SUMMARY OF PERSONNEL.

1. Supt. D. B. Sheller: Handled the grazing problem at the stock meetings exceedingly well. Is inclined to be lax in enforcing the regulations. Recommend he be placed in charge of the reserve, October 1st, and remain so until after the grazing business is settled.

2. Supervisor S. S. Terrell, lacks executive ability and capacity for work. He cannot handle the grazing situation next season. I recommend he be demoted to Deputy Supervisor at his present salary, and be assigned to field work on special privileges, trespasses, examination of mining and agricultural claims, which sort of work he is best fitted for.

3. Assistant Forest Ranger Berry is a good thorough going forest officer, but under the poor executive directions of Mr. Terrell has been handicapped in showing his entire efficiency. Recommend he be assigned to privilege, trespass, timber sale and claim work in the Granite and Greenhorn districts, with headquarters at the Muratt Homestead. He should be promoted to Deputy Forest Ranger at \$1,000.00 per annum on July 1st, 1907, unless unforeseen circumstances militate against such recommendation.

4. Guard V. J. Dawson, is the best of the new men. Has resigned, but recommend he be appointed Assistant Forest Ranger as soon as receiving his civil-service rating, should he pass, and be assigned to the northern district. He is probably the best man to take charge in the absence of the Supervisor. Recommend he be promoted to Deputy Forest Ranger at \$1,000.00 per annum, July 1st, 1907, unless unforeseen future circumstances militate against such action.

4. Guard Thos. H. Parker is a conscientious worker, keen witted and original. He is slightly officious and somewhat too strict. Recommend he be made Deputy Forest Ranger at \$1,000.00 per annum on July 1st, 1907, should he pass the civil-service examination, unless future conditions do not warrant, and be assigned to timber sale privilege, mining and agricultural examination work, with headquarters in Bourne.

5. Guard M. J. Sullens is proving to be a competent forest officer, especially in reference to grazing. Recommend he be appointed to Assistant Forest Ranger upon certificate of Civil Service Commission, and remain on duty all the year, with headquarters in the Southern District.

6. The Ranger and Guard personnel is composed of excellent men, which will eventually result in securing a high standard of efficiency.

7. The full force of Guards allowed this season could not be obtained for the salary allowed, because of the excessive high cost of living in this region.

Recommend the whole force of additional field men next season be Assistant Forest Rangers, with a salary of \$75.00 per month.

8. Recommend that V.J. Dawson, Thos. H. Parker and William E. Berry be promoted on July 1, 1907 to Deputy Forest Rangers, but this recommendation is provisionary upon these forest officers showing continued efficiency.

9. Recommend five Assistant Forest Rangers be appointed at the beginning of next summer's grazing season; three of these to serve five months; this making a total of nine men during the summer season.

10. Recommend that Assistant Forest Ranger Berry, Guards Dawson and Sullens be kept on duty this winter and spring as Assistant Forest Rangers.

11. Change the ranger districts.

12. Do not recommend the assignment of a Technical Assistant to this reserve as long as the position of Deputy Supervisor lasts.

13. The allotments should be changed and distributed to meet the change in conditions.

SUMMARY, EQUIPMENT.

1. Sumpter is the best town for the headquarters of the reserve.

2. A suitable sign should be in front of the office.

3. No immediate necessity for any additional field tools.

Recommend the purchase of two gold pans and some fencing material.

4. The office needs another office desk and chair, and a long table or shelf. Such existing mining maps as apply to the reserve should be purchased.

5. Conditions of the office records were bad when I first visited the office. Now in fair shape. No censure on this score advised.

SUMMARY of Protection and Recommendations.

FIRES:

1. No serious forest fire this season.
2. Sentiment of the people against forest fires favorable.

ROADS:

1. Numerous well traveled roads within the reserve.
2. These roads not located where patrol is most needed; but are very serviceable for getting over the country rapidly.

TRAILS:

1. A few good trails over reserve. Many exceedingly poor ones.
2. Recommend the old Indian trail, following for the most part the main summit in a northerly and southerly direction be relocated and cut out for patrol.
3. Recommend additional trails be built from Lehman Springs, south to Olive Lake, Staulters' mine and Middle Fork John Day River; from North Powder Lakes north to edge of reserve, and a third from Prairie City Valley to Little Baldy Mountain.
4. The cost of building trails within the reserve is slight.
5. Recommend that some trail work be begun at once, and continued until the snow prohibits further work.

CABINS:

1. One of the cabins secured on range headquarter selection in excellent shape, and should be used for winter quarters by one of the rangers.
2. Recommend that three additional cabins be constructed, one on Big Squaw Meadows in District No. 5; another in the vicinity of Lehman Springs or Fly Valley, and a third at Bourne, if a vacant building cannot be secured there.
3. A great many more ranger sites for pasture grounds, should be selected.

Look-out Stations:

1. Recommend the establishment of several look-out stations along the summit of the Blue Mountains.
2. The summit is generally heavily timbered, which obstructs the view.
3. Recommend large trees in suitable locations be selected to serve as lookout stations, and nail strips across the trunk of the tree to facilitate climbing.

TELEPHONES:

1. Recommend lines be established from Lehman Springs to Starkey and south to Murratt Headquarters, connecting with main line from Sumpter to Granite.
2. Connect Big Squaw Meadows with Austin.
3. Connect Lookout Stations where 'phone lines are not close at hand with headquarter stations and private lines.
4. Recommend that Supervisor be advised to encourage co-operation with private lines as far as possible.

GAME:

1. Deer abundant in lower country. Number of elk estimated about 50 to 75 head.
2. Umatilla Indians have been accustomed to slaughtering the game indiscriminately.
3. Recommend the forest officers, who are ex-officio game wardens, be instructed to exercise vigilance in checking this practice of the Indians.

Boundary Lines:

1. Very little boundary run out and posted.
2. Recommend boundary running be an important work of the Rangers during the winter and spring.

(Signed) M. L. ERICKSON,
Assistant Forest Inspector.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

Sumpter, Oregon, September 5, 1908.

Mr. E. T. Allen,
Chief Inspector,
Portland, Oregon,

Dear Mr. Allen:

Enclosed is a partial report on the Whitman National Forest. The remaining sections will be forwarded you in a few days. The material sent you today will keep Buck busy for a little while.

You will note that I have studiously avoided a summary in the form of recommendations of my report. From my experience in handling inspection reports in the Washington office last winter, I find that this summary is useless and no longer cared for. If a summary were arranged in serial numbers, as was formerly done, I am afraid this part of the report would be nearly equal to what I am submitting now, for I have avoided all discussion which seems unnecessary.

The specifications, quantity and price of material and timber sales have been omitted, because this is information which the Washington office already has. You will note, however, a line showing the quantity and price of material, right under the heading of each timber sale designation. This is merely for your information and should *{I believe}* be omitted when the report is typewritten.

Very sincerely,

{signed} M. L. Erickson
Inspector.